



VAVS NEWSLETTER

VAMC Battle Creek, Michigan

VA Medical Center

January-March 2010



The Battle Creek VA Medical Center has been selected to host a National Salute to Veteran Patients Valentines for Veterans Concert featuring Lee Greenwood, renowned country music artist. The concert is an expression of appreciation and support from the VA and the community.

The concert will be on Monday, February 15, 2010, at 7:00 p.m., at the WK Kellogg Auditorium, 50 West Van Buren Street, in Battle Creek.

Tickets for the concert are no longer available from the Medical Center. Listen to WNWN 98.5 radio station for opportunities to obtain tickets. If you are not able to get a ticket in advance, seats may be available the night of the concert at 6:55 pm. Please arrive at 6:45 pm and wait in the lobby for instructions.



Volunteers Rolene Robinson and Jackie Skinner prepare bags for Christmas Gift Distribution.



Donation of handmade quilts for this Christmas season.



Volunteers, Paul Dozeman, with granddaughter Brittany Fox, pose before heading out to deliver Canteen books to the wards on Christmas Eve Day.





National Salute to Veteran Patients

National Salute to Veteran Patients will be held during the week of February 8-14, 2010. This week pays tribute and expresses appreciation to Veterans; increases community awareness of the role of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical center; encourages citizens to visit VA medical centers, and to become involved as volunteers. If you would like to schedule an activity, please contact Community and Volunteer Service at (269) 223-5497. This is your opportunity to say thank you to a special group of men and women who are cared for every day in the VA medical centers, outpatient clinics, domiciliaries, and nursing homes.

Santa Letters Were a Huge Success

Many thanks to the VAVS Committee and Orv Stevens, American Legion, for spearheading this fundraiser and his recruitment efforts of volunteers to assist to get the project completed. A total of 228 letters were mailed with a profit to the VAVS Committee of \$690.00. We look forward to continuing this endeavor next year.

A Christmas Thank You

The Christmas Gift Wrap and Distribution is completed for another year. Thank you to the volunteers who wrapped gifts for distribution to our residents and the volunteers who helped distribute each gift. With the efforts of our volunteers and the contributions that were made, our Veterans enjoyed another wonderful holiday season. Thank you to all volunteers, Veteran Service Organizations, community organizations, and individuals who took time out of their busy schedules to sponsor Christmas parties, bingo, gift shop, dinners and entertainment throughout this holiday season. This helped to make this a very Merry Christmas for our Veterans.



Seventy volunteers gather at 6:00 p.m. in the Auditorium prior to distributing gifts on December 23, 2009.



VA Medical Center
Community and Volunteer Service
5500 Armstrong Road
Battle Creek, MI 49037

CURRENT NEEDS LIST – January-March 2010

Miscellaneous

Meijer or Wal-Mart Gift Cards
Gas Cards (\$20 amounts)
Telephone Cards - 60 minutes
McDonald's and Burger King Gift Certificates
DVD Players
Hand Held Games
Portable Radios
Stamps, 44 cents
Men's White T-shirts (2XL-3XL)
New Men's Underwear (all sizes)
Casual Shoes (size 10-13)
Coffee Pots, 42-50 Cup

Toiletries

Toothpaste
Toothbrushes
Denture Adhesive/Brushes
Hair Brushes

Decaffeinated Coffee
Sweetener, Creamer
Stir Sticks

Due to infection control policies, personal care items must be new and not have expired.

No sample sizes

No sunglasses

No bar Soap

100% of your donation will be used for Veterans' needs

Monetary Donations

*GPF #05	Recreation
*GPF #09	Emergency Funds: Battle Creek or Grand Rapids
GPF #18	Grand Rapids CBOC Cookie Fund
GPF #16	Homeless Veterans Program Fund
*GPF #17	Vietnam Veteran Memorial Trip
GPF #20	VA History Museum
GPF #20	Cultural Transformation Project
GPF #20	Planetree Initiatives
*GPF #20	Videos for Vet – Needs \$392.65 per month Project funds showing of first run movies over VA cable system. Sponsor is listed in the bi-monthly movie guide

Monetary Donations

*GPF #25	Pontoon Boat Fund
*GPF #26	National Veterans Programs Games
*GPF #34	Mental Health Intensive Care Management Fund
GPF #41	Seamless Transition Fund
*GPF #20	Valentines for Veterans Concert
*GPF #20	Baking Project Supplies

*** = General Post Funds or items most in need**

Please call and check with the office prior to making purchases. If you wish to contribute or have any questions, call Community and Volunteer Service at (269) 223-5497. Make checks payable to VA Medical Center. In the "memo" section of the check, please indicate which General Post Fund you want the donation deposited into.



DATES TO REMEMBER



FEBRUARY

8-14 National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week

15-Presidents' Day Holiday (office closed)

MARCH

10-VAVS Meeting, 1:30 p.m. Building 6, Auditorium

APRIL

20-Volunteer Recognition Luncheon, Noon, Battle Creek County Club

ANNUAL JOINT REVIEWS

JANUARY

AMVETS

Daughters of the Union Veterans of the Civil War

Help Hospitalized Veterans

Masonic Service

Polish Legion of American Veterans

Sons of the American Revolution

FEBRUARY

Fleet Reserve

Marine Corps League

Military Order of the Cootie

Sons of AMVETS

MARCH

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.

Knights of Columbus

National Woman's Relief Corps

CERTIFICATION

Carol Parks, Representative,
American Legion Auxiliary

Joy Neulieb, Representative,
American Red Cross

Janette Brockway, Deputy, American
Legion Auxiliary

William Roush, Deputy, Military Order
of the Purple Heart

RECERTIFICATION

Tom Lightbody, Representative,
Disabled American Veterans

Clyde Logan, Deputy, American Red
Cross

Joe Wright, Deputy, Disabled
American Veterans

Remember-A-Vet Fund Drive

This year's fundraising campaign, which is sponsored by the Battle Creek Enquirer, began on Thanksgiving day and ran until Christmas. The Battle Creek Enquirer includes a donation coupon in each day's publication through Christmas Day. They publish the names of donors by category and as of December 29, the donations totaled \$32,000 which has exceeded their goal. Thank you volunteers and Service Organizations for your continued support of our Veterans.

STAFF

Nancy Babcock

Chief, Community and Volunteer
Service

Dawn Craig

Volunteer Service Specialist
Linda Heidenreich
Program Support Assistant

**Community and Volunteer
Service**

Building 10, Room 110
VA Medical Center
5500 Armstrong Road
Battle Creek, MI 49037
(269) 223-5497